

## OUTCOMES

The Department of Health hosted the Lyme Disease Treatment Round Table Meeting on Tuesday 27 May 2014. Participants included members of the Clinical Advisory Committee on Lyme Disease in Australia, general practitioners and members of relevant medical colleges. Participants were invited to participate in a facilitated and wide ranging discussion about Lyme disease or Lyme-like illness in Australia. Key topics discussed included:

- The epidemiology of acute Lyme disease in those returning from overseas endemic areas and patients with a Lyme-like illness with no travel history to endemic areas
- Current diagnostic tests for Lyme disease
- The concept of chronic Lyme disease versus a chronic multisystem infectious disease, and
- Treatment of patients with chronic Lyme disease

Several potential research activities were proposed throughout, namely:

1. A validation study on the methods currently used in Australian laboratories and if possible relevant international laboratories to diagnose borreliosis.
2. An initial epidemiological study into patients presenting with symptoms of *Borrelia* infection acquired in Australia.
3. An epidemiological study on returned travellers from endemic areas.
4. Research into the incidence of neuroborreliosis cases using CSF samples already collected from aseptic meningitis patients.
5. A clinical randomised control trial (blinded) on the treatment of patients diagnosed with chronic Lyme disease.
6. The development of a register of patients with chronic neurological symptoms in partnership with neurologists and treating GPs to compare if treatment with antibiotics demonstrates any improvement in patient outcomes.

### Next steps

The outcomes from the Lyme Disease Treatment Round Table Meeting will be considered by the Clinical Advisory Committee on Lyme Disease in Australia at their next meeting scheduled for 15 July 2014. The outcomes of the meeting will be considered in the context of the research proposed in Prof. John Mackenzie's *Scoping Study to develop a research project(s) to investigate the presence or absence of Lyme disease in Australia*.